

9-082865, 9-082866 and 9-082867, all filed on April 1, 1997. The translation of each of these Japanese Patent Applications is accurate and provides support for claims 1-30 of the present application. This application claims foreign priority from the 3 JP Application Nos. 9-082865, 9-082866 and 9-082867 under 35 U.S.C. §119. Certified copies of the above corresponding foreign applications were filed in this application on October 3, 1997.

Pont was filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 20, 1997. This date is after April 1, 1997, the date that the Japanese priority documents listed above were filed in Japan. Thus, the Office Action can no longer rely on Pont as a prior art reference under §102(e). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) must be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Appendix
Substitute Abstract
Petition for Extension of Time
English translations for JP 9-82865, JP 9-82867 and JP 9-82866

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